

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This Amendment and Response is promptly filed to place the above-referenced case in condition for immediate allowance.

The status of the claims is as follows:

<u>Cancelled:</u>	1, 23 – 50;
<u>Amended:</u>	2 – 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, and 17 – 19;
<u>Added:</u>	None; and
<u>Currently outstanding:</u>	2 – 22.

No new matter has been added to the application.

Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice to secure allowance of the present application. Claims 23 – 50 have been cancelled without prejudice in accordance with the prior restriction requirement and the current Office action.

From the outstanding Office action: Claims 1–7 and 18–19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by the Wolff '427 patent. Claims 8–16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Wolff patent in view of purported Applicant-Admitted Prior Art (AAPA), (purportedly arising from the background of the Invention Section, pages 2–6 of the Application). Claim 17 stands objected to but allowable and Claims 20–22 stand allowed.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the comments made below.

Former dependent claim 17 has now been placed in independent form by including that subject matter which it originally incorporated by reference. Such incorporation by reference is explicitly acknowledged by 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 4, sentence 2, which reads as follows:

A claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers.

Consequently, no narrowing amendment has been made to claim 17.

As claims 2 – 16 and 18 – 19 all depend upon allowable claim 17, these claims are believed also to be allowable.

Claims 20 – 22 stand allowed.

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his position in view of the remarks made herein and the structural distinctions now set forth. The Examiner's rejections of the outstanding claims are believed to no longer apply. It is now believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Prompt and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone or other conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of the present application, enabling an Examiner's amendment or other meaningful discussion of the case, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the number listed below.

With the above-referenced changes, it is believed that the application is in a condition for allowance; and Applicants respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the application on to

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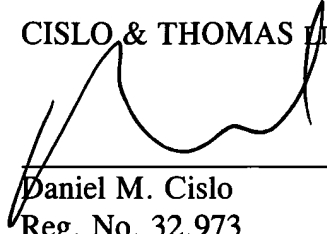
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allowance. It is not believed that any additional fees are due; however, in the event any additional fees are due, the Examiner is authorized to charge Applicants' Attorney's Deposit Account No. 03-2030.

Respectfully submitted,

CISLO & THOMAS LLP

Date: July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005

  
Daniel M. Cislo  
Reg. No. 32,973  
Tel.: (310) 451-0647 x128

DMC/ASJ/kr

Enclosures

Acknowledgement Postcard

CISLO & THOMAS LLP  
233 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 900  
Santa Monica, California 90401  
Tel: (310) 451-0647  
Fax: (310) 394-4477  
Customer No.: 25,189  
www.cislo.com

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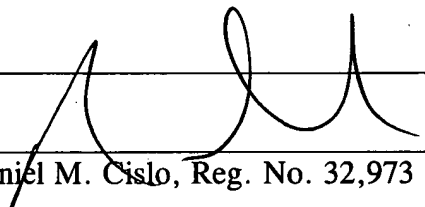
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